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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Dear Senator Marsh:

Thank you for informing us of the Nebraska resolution conferring honorary citizenship on Raoul Wallenberg.

As you may know, the United States Government has been concerned over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg since the case first came to light at the end of World War II. We have taken every appropriate opportunity to ask Soviet authorities for a clarification on the Wallenberg case. The Soviet authorities have persisted in maintaining that Wallenberg died in 1947 but have provided no further details. When we received reports which indicated the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions throughout 1979. They finally answered, formally and in writing, in February of 1980, stating that Wallenberg had died in July of 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and they indicated that they would have no further information on Wallenberg in the future.

The Wallenberg case remains a matter of continuing concern for the United States Government. We have continued our efforts to gain information regarding his fate. In December of 1980 at the Madrid CSCE Review Conference, the United States delegation voiced its support for the position of the Government of Sweden when the Swedish delegation urged renewed efforts to resolve the Wallenberg case. In addition, representatives from the American Embassy in Stockholm attended sessions of the recent hearing on the Wallenberg case held in Stockholm on January 15 and 16 of this year. Most recently, on April 10, Ambassador Max Kampelman, speaking in Madrid for a CSCE plenary session, stated that the Wallenberg case was one that "will not go away." Ambassador Kampelman noted that the refusal of the Soviets "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case is stimulating even further interest." He stated that "the tragic mystery of Raoul Wallenberg is unnecessarily becoming a divisive international issue."

The Honorable
Shirley Marsh,
Nebraska State Legislature,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Let me assure you that the Department of State will continue to express our concern over the Wallenberg case at every appropriate opportunity. Let me also assure you that we intend to cooperate with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties to continue seeking information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

We continue to seek ways to accomplish this deeply humanitarian purpose. Raoul Wallenberg not only affected the lives of thousands directly, his efforts indirectly contributed to the saving of thousands of additional lives. Faced with his spirited defense of the lives of innocent human beings, officials hesitated to enforce orders which would have condemned even more. Wallenberg's life is a testimony to the bravery of the human spirit in defense of freedom. We are hopeful effective means to shed more light on his fate and to honor his cause can be found.

Sincerely,



Edward Marks
Acting Director
Intergovernmental Affairs
and Public Liaison

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